FAMINE IN ASIA.

A Record of Suffering--Hunger and Disease Decimate a Population--Government Cruelties--The Story of Devlah.

A correspondent of the London *Times* writes to that journal from Karaman (ancient Lycaonia), in Asia Minor: After traveling over a large part of the plain of Cilicia, I made my way through the pass of the Pylæ Ciliciæ to this very pretty and picturesque little town. It is situated on the southern edge of the great central plain of Asia Minor, and is just within the limits of the district in which famine has prevailed (1873-4-5) in this part of the Ottoman empire.

A mere passer by sees but little of the distress which is, alas! still very great. Everywhere the harvest is magnificent; one rides for days together through fields of wheat and barley—as fine as in any part of the world—and the cheapness of provisions is, to a European, very remarkable, but mix a little with the people, especially the villagers, and you will soon find out the real state of things. In all the places I have visited there is the same piteous tale of ruin and death. The rich are now poor; the poor are dead or have immigrated; the few who yet linger round their homes manage to prolong life by the charitable help of others only a shade better off than themselves—in short, the fire has burned itself out. It is true that in a few weeks the incoming harvest will remedy much of this, and, at least, the people will not die of hunger, as thousands upon thousands—I am reluctant to mention the number given to me—have died during those terrible years 1873 and 1874. But in the interim the stress is very dreadful, and these poor people know not whither to turn for help.

In this great pastoral district it is not so much the bad harvests which have ruined the people as the loss of all, or nearly all, their flocks and herds during the severe winter of 1873-4, when deep snow lay on the ground for fully four months, and no food could be had for the starving animals. Previously to 1874 the people in the interior were in the most comfortable circumstances. Their flocks and herds formed their wealth; and how considerable that was may be judged of by the account of their losses subjoined, in the case of a few villages I visited. Now they have literally nothing left. I rode for nearly five hours through an absolutely solitary district. The villages were there, but there was not a man, not a sheep, not even a goat to be seen. It was as lonely as if I had been at sea. It is only on approaching Karaman that there are any signs of prosperity.

I have obtained from some of the villagers with whom I made acquaintance the following particulars of their losses: Olokishla—a large village at the head of the great pass leading down to the Cilician plain—consisted formerly of four hundred houses; of these only one hundred are left; the rest are deserted, their inhabitants either died of famine ("We used to find them dead all about the mountains," said my informant) or they only escaped to perish of typhus and dysentery at Adana and Tarsus. The village once possessed 18,000 sheep and about 1,000 goats; of these about five per cent. remain. Twelve hundred cows and oxen perished. The village population was reduced by 1,000 souls. Of these how many were dead could not be exactly ascertained, but by far the largest portion. Tchaian, a village on the edge of the plain of Lycaonia, had once 300 houses, with a population of 2,000 souls; of these about 800 were dead. It was inscribed on the government register as possessing 10,000 sheep—all are dead. It had about 320 cows and oxen, and 300 camels; some 150 in all survive. They died of hunger. There was no straw, owing to the bad harvest; and the snow lay four feet deep for five months. "A horse-load of straw (saman) cost sixty piastres" (about ten shillings). "The men used to go out into the mountains to cut the little grass they could from under the frozen snow; but they could not get enough."

They made many complaints to the government through the governor of Koniah. At last an order came to give to each head of a family four and one-half bushels (kilehs) of wheat and barley mixed. They did receive a part of this, and some wheat for seed, the latter as a debt. But no oxen were given, and consequently very little indeed of the land could be sowed. This year they have better prospects, but they are heavily indebted. They hope two good harvests will enable them to clear this off. But even should this year's harvest be good, it will only enable them to replace their oxen, etc., for the year's sowing.

In the meantime the government is exacting its taxes with extreme severity, and even claiming the arrears of the last two years. Zaptiehs (police) are sent with orders to force the people to sell the little remaining property they have (carpets, cooking utensils, etc.) and pay the taxes. I was myself witness to something of this. It occurred in a beautiful village at the foot of the Bulghar Dagh. A zaptieh had come with the usual order, and just as I alighted I heard one of the peasants exclaim: "But I have nothing left." "You have your garden," was the reply, "sell that." "*Janum*," said the poor fellow (equivalent to "My dear sir"), "only find me a purchaser and I'll sell it."

Bektik is a large village near Eregli. Of its 400 families fifty are known to have perished; 200 have immigrated, chiefly to Adana, but of these many died *en route*, and nothing is known of the survivors. Very significant was one observation I heard: "Of the little children who died no account was taken." The village was registered as possessing 30,000 sheep and goats. All are dead. "They died of hunger, owing to bad winter." Of 1,100 oxen and 2,000 cows only about 200 remain.

I could cite the cases of many other villages. I will end with the worst. Devlah, of Lycaonia, was before the famine a very considerable village of about 700 houses; 200 only are now left; all the rest are ruined and deserted. I myself saw the whole quarter of the place in ruins. It possesses a very extensive pastoral district, consisting of rounded marble hills with much grass, but little arable land, and is four to seven hours' ride distant from any other village. The scarcity began in 1873. There was no rain; but it was the winter of 1873-4 which ruined them. They possessed 48,000 sheep; all perished. They had 400 pairs of oxen; about five per cent. are left. Every house possessed a cow or two; almost all are gone. When no food could be found the poorest of the villagers ate grass, herbs, the bark of brushwood, and they died by scores, for there was no help nearer at hand than Koniah or Adana, every one round them being in the same sad condition. At last, in their extremity, some of them found a kind of clay, which they ground down, mixed with water, and swallowed. I was solemnly assured of the truth of this. No help came; a few managed to escape to Koniah; of those who contrived to reach Adana nearly all died of typhus, and so the fire went on till nothing was left for it to feed on. Only those who once were rich are left now; even they are reduced to the extremity of indigence, and scarce know how to support themselves till the new harvest comes in. They live on money borrowed from the merchants with whom they used to do business in better times.

For them, as for most other villages, the government did little or nothing. Seed was given; indeed, had that not been provided this year would have been as bad as last. The harvest will be good, but it will only just be enough for their absolute wants. Last year the government taxes were raised, in many cases by the most violent means; this year the same thing would occur, but there is nothing—absolutely nothing—left to take.

"Had all this been told to the Sadr-el Azam" (grand vizier), said one of my informants, "he would have been indignant with the wali for not reporting it before. The wali would have been furious with the kaimakan for deceiving him as to the real state of things; the kaimakan would have laid all the blame on us for not bringing our complaint to him." And to this bitter irony he added: "Any government would be better than this." Such is the present state of things in this beautiful but unfortunate country. Let us hope the incoming harvest will bring some relief, and the Ottoman government be brought to see the absolute necessity of establishing proper communications by roads and railways. Had these existed, how many useful lives might have been saved, and what a terrible amount of suffering prevented.

THE LATE ANDREW JOHNSON.

Sketch of his Early Life and Public Career.

Andrew Johnson, seventeenth President of the United States, whose death is announced, was born in Raleigh, N. C., December 29, 1808. His father, Jacob Johnson, who died in 1812, was city constable, sexton, and porter of the State bank. Extreme poverty prevented Andrew from obtaining any schooling, and at the age of ten he was apprenticed to a tailor named Selby. A gentleman was in the habit of visiting the shop and reading to the workmen, generally from the "American Speaker," and Andrew became intensely interested, especially in the extracts from the speeches of Pitt and Fox. He determined to learn to read, and having accomplished this he devoted all his leisure hours to the perusal of such books as he could obtain.

In the summer of 1824, a few months before his apprenticeship expired, he got into trouble by throwing stones at an old woman's house, and ran away to avoid the consequences. He went to Laurens Court House, N. C., and obtained work as a journeyman tailor. In May, 1826, he returned to Raleigh. Selby had moved into the country, and Andrew walked twenty miles to see him, apologized for his misdemeanor, and promised to pay him for the unfulfilled portion of his apprenticeship. Selby, however, required security, which Andrew could not furnish; and in September he went to Tennessee, taking with him his mother, who was dependent on him for support. He worked for a year in Greenville, during which time he married, and, after a vain search for a more desirable home further West, he finally settled there.

Thus far his education had been limited to reading, but now, under his wife's instruction, he learned to write and cipher. He began to take an interest in local politics; and in 1828 a workingman's party, to oppose the so-called aristocratic element which had always ruled the town, was formed. Considerable excitement ensued, and Johnson was elected alderman by a large majority. He was re-elected in each of the two following years, and in 1830 was elected mayor, which office he held for three years. From this time forth he was a rising politician, and, as he used to boast, rose by successive steps from the lowest to the highest offices of State; his various contests and campaigns being marked with extraordinary turbulence, obstinacy and courage on his part.

He was elected to Congress in 1843, and became Governor of the State of Tennessee in 1853, and again in 1855. He was elected United States Senator in 1857. He was a Democrat, and on the question of slavery generally went with his party. He accepted slavery as an existing institution, but believed that it must some day come to an end, and held that it must be kept subordinate to the Union at every hazard. He at first opposed the compromise measures of 1850, but finally voted for them. In the campain of 1860 he supported Breckinridge and Lane.

The Legislature having voted the State of Tennessee out of the Union, on March 4, 1862, President Lincoln renominated Andrew Johnson to be military governor of Tennessee. The Senate confirmed the nomination, and on the 12th of that month he reached Nashville and assumed the duties of the office.

His election as Vice-President on the ticket with Mr. Lincoln, the melancholy death of the latter five weeks after his second inauguration, the accession of Mr. Johnson to the Presidency, and the difficulties between himself and Congress while holding that office, will be well remembered by all who have taken any interest in the politics of recent years. Finally, articles of impeachment were prepared against him, and his trial began March 23, 1868, Benjamin F. Buller being leading counsel for the prosecution and William M. Evarts for the defense. He was acquitted, the vote being thirty-five for "guilty" and nineteen for "not guilty"—a two-thirds vote being required to convict. On March 4, 1869, he was succeeded in the Presidential office by Ulysses S. Grant.

Last year he was elected to the United States Senate from Tennessee and held that office at the time of his death.

The Interior of Africa.

Col. Long, in describing his recent journey to the interior of Africa, and the vicinity of the land of the pigmies, thus describes the hardships he underwent: To cross Atmour is a fearful undertaking, I assure you. For one hundred and fifty miles the route, though painful, is in close proximity to the river, and thus we have water for two hundred miles. Leaving Abou Hamed, where the river describes a great arc westward, we are obliged to cross a bleak, barren sea of sand, so suffocating and hot that the thermometer will scarcely register the heat. Great simoons or khamseens blow with roaring sounds their hot breath, and cause your skin to crack like parchment. On all sides a sea of sand, bordered only by delusive mirages that lead many to their death; for there is no well or water (save one, half-way, like Epsom salts, and none but camels may drink it); then we have water for eight days, carried on camels' backs in goat skins. The camel, a patient, hard-working animal, without which it would be impossible to cross the desert, still has not the extraordinary powers attributed to him, and is water-proof only for two or three days, dying on the fourth. Thousands thus perish, and the road for the whole distance shows five to ten carcasses for every mile, bleached bones that indicate the deadly route. Add to this the fearful see-saw movement. A forced march is necessary, and day and night, with occasional naps and stops for the purpose of eating black bread and onions and drinking of nearly putrid water—all this may not give you the slightest conception of this march.

The Good of It.

As "to the good of it," says Gen. Hawley, in an address on rifle shooting, it can provide in our country our strongest protection against a foreign war. There is no nation in the world but would hesitate to attack another whose soldiers were practiced long-range marksmen. Skill in accurate shooting would counterbalance military discipline. A regiment armed with breech-loaders and drilled in marksmanship alone would put to route the best drilled regiment of regulars before the latter could march half a mile. Raw troops who know they can shoot will possess confidence which otherwise would only come of months of training. It is therefore for the good of any nation which does not maintain a regular army that its citizens should know how to handle the best firearms effectively. The introduction of long-range shooting has done much to improve the general skill of our people in the use of the rifle, as is shown at every target shoot and in the numerous rifle clubs which have been formed all over the country.

Hadn't Time.

A citizen of Vicksburg, Miss., who wanted a few hours' work done about his yard the other day, accosted a working man and inquired if he would like the job.

"I'd like to do it, but I haven't time," was the answer.

"Why, you don't seem to be doing anything."

"I don't, eh! Well, now, I'm going a-fishin' to-day. To-morrow I'm going over the river. Next day I'm going a-huntin'. Next day I've got to get my boots fixed. Next day I'm going to mend the table, and I don't know how I'm going to get through the week unless I hire a man to help me!"

The theory that two railway trains can pass each other safely on a single track is again disproved, and yet the experiment will be tried again.

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

The United States Centennial Board of Finance in Need of Funds—An Appeal to the Country for Contributions.

At a special meeting of the United States Centennial board of finance, the board adopted the following statement and resolutions:

The contracts for all the buildings for the Centennial exhibition require them to be completed by the 1st of January next. They are now in a condition of forwardness far beyond that of any international exhibition at the same relative time, and are making progess at a rate faster than the funds to pay for them is being accumulated. The board of finance have thus far been enabled to adhere to the policy of paying their building bills and all other expenses as they became due. They know that course to be the best economy for the stockholders, as well as the only sound policy. In order to adhere to this policy additional source of revenue will have to be opened for the use of the board or else the buildings will be completed before the full amount of money to pay for them has been subscribed. The board of finance and their agents have tried to be most earnest and diligent in their endeavors to open up additional sources of revenue throughout the several States, and particularly in the most populous and prosperous cities, and have tried to stimulate and urge subscriptions to the stock by all proper means. These efforts have met with a fair degree of success in some localities, but still the money thus far derived from them, together with that falling due from subscriptions already made, will not be sufficient to enable the board to pay the cost of the buildings promptly as the bills fall due.

The board will need to be supplied with $100,000 additional for building purposes alone in the last four months of this year to pay the contractors what will be due them during September, October, November and December. This is exclusive of the amount that will be necessary for the preparation and completion of the grounds, the decoration of the buildingsand the expenditures for administration, which will be payable in the first four months of 1876. The majestic proportions of the buildings as they now stand and their wonderful progress are credible in the highest degree to the whole country, as well as to the citizens, corporations and States who have thus far contributed to the fund, and their present condition and the energy with which they have been pressed forward should of themselves bring to the aid of the board of finance that large body of their fellow citizens who have not as yet added their names to the subscription fund. To them the board must now make an earnest appeal here in Philadelphia, where a comparatively few persons have done so much, as well as throughout the country at large; and as the board of finance have heretofore received most valuable assistance from the Philadelphia citizens' committee they adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Centennial board of finance, charged by the act of Congress of June, 1872, with the construction of the buildings for the Centennial international exhibition of 1876, earnestly request the Philadelphia citizens' committee to make a final appeal to such of the people, corporations and business interests of the city as have not already made their subscriptions to the Centennial stock to come forward now to the aid of the board.

Resolved, That all citizens, corporations and States and Territories throughout the United States be most earnestly urged through the commissioners for the States and Territories respectively, and through the directors and agents of the board of finance, to make an active canvass and to procure and forward subscriptions to the fund with the least possible delay.

How High Can a Cat Jump?

That birds, however apparently safely hung in cages, are unsafe from the skill and cunning of the cat, may be gathered from many instances of the extraordinary leaps they are capable of making to attain their prey. We are told by a reliable authority that when his cat was a year old, he was seen several days in succession to take his position on a showcase four feet high, licking his chops, while watching a canary in a cage, suspended from the ceiling eight feet from the case. The ceiling was eleven feet high from the floor, and the case an ordinary cylindrical one. While thus observing the cat, and thinking how remote was his chance of plunder, the animal suddenly sprang at the cage and caught his claws in it. His weight swung the cage up against the ceiling, spilling seed and water, and terrifying the canary. After swinging to and fro for several times, the cat dropped to the floor uninjured. Our informant measured the distance from the top of the cage, and found it to be ten feet; so that the cat made an ascent of six feet in eight, or upon an incline of nearly thirty-five degrees. The surprise here is that the bird escaped; for it is during its terror, and while beating itself from side to side of the cage, that the hooked claws of the cat are prepared to receive it; and if any portion of the bird is caught, it is rapidly pulled through the wire, and the cat and bird disappear before the spectator can recover his astonishment.—*Chambers' Journal.*

The Panel Thief.

New York is investigating her panel thief business. Old police captains say these establishments are the most difficult to break up, because the panel thief takes the trouble to learn all about her intended victim, and usually selects a stranger in the city, a man who has a family and surroundings of a respectable character, and one who has considerable self-conceit. Panel thieves take a great deal of pains, also, to learn how much will be necessary to pay their victim's hotel bill and his fare home. When the trap is all ready they spring it, but never take all the money their victim has. This precaution almost invariably keeps the victim from telling his loss or seeking aid to recover his property. Panel thieves do not take jewelry, nor any other article which can be identified, except when they find that the victim carries such a large sum of money about him that it is worth while to break up the house for the sake of it. Then they strip him. In such a case all the persons engaged in the robbery leave the city at once. When the victim brings the police to the house it is found to be closed and empty, arrangements having been made previously to have the house cleared of its furniture. There are many modes of robbery similar in some respects to panel thieving, but in these the victim is stripped of every valuable thing, while panel thieves would soon have their business broken up if they pursued so reckless a course.

Robbing the Mails.

A Boston dealer in seeds sends a communication to the *Transcript* regarding the extent of the thievery practiced in our post-office service. Sixteen hundred letters were stolen from him during a period of four or five months last year, and this year, between January 1 and May 20, he has been compelled to apply for four hundred and sixteen duplicate money-orders to replace an equal number stolen. As only sums under one dollar are sent in cash, the pilfering is small, but even this makes an individual loss of $2,000 a year, and does, besides, incalculable injury in damaging reputation for business promptitude and honest dealing, as well as in disappointing plans for the planting of crops and gardens. This is the complainant's story. It must be taken into consideration that his report of stolen letters is large, because his receipt of letters is enormous; but still the number stolen amounts to two and one-half per cent of those received. This is sufficiently alarming and discreditable. It is evident that it is unsafe to send money through the mails.

An editor, having asked an Illinois farmer for crop news, received this answer: And now the reaper reapeth, the mower moweth, and the little bumblebee getteth up the busy granger's trowsers-leg and bumbleth.

OUR PARLOR BOARDER.

"Young ladies," said Miss Scrimper, solemnly, addressing the inmates of Remington female seminary at the close of their midday meal, "you will now retire to your rooms for an hour's study, after which you may enjoy the half-holiday usual upon Wednesdays."

Then Miss Scrimper bowed to the file of maidens ranged upon her right and on her left, and withdrew her majestic presence from the scene.

"I say, Bess," said Helen Ransom, the parlor boarder, mysteriously, to me, as we encountered her on our way across the hall, "you and Annie come to my room after study hour, will you?"

Now our parlor boarder was a whole romance in herself, and the distinction of an invitation to her private apartment was about as exciting an event to us other members of the seminary as a command to visit the queen would be to the ordinary Englishman.

The reports that were current among the girls about Helen Ransom were as numerous and contradictory as those usually circulated about distinguished individuals. One said that she was the ward of an ill-tempered uncle, who was determined to keep her at school until his own ugly daughters were married and out of the way; another, that she was placed under Miss Scrimper's care to keep her out of the way of a designing young relative who was trying to get possession of her fortune and herself; another, that she had once tried to elope with this same young gentleman, but the attempt was frustrated by a stern papa, who had caught her in the act of descending from a third-story window by means of a rope ladder, after which he placed her under the charge of Miss Scrimper, with orders that the strictest surveillance was to be exercised.

All agreed, however, that there was a lover, and this fact at once made our parlor boarder an object of admiration and reverence to every member of Remington female seminary.

"Now, girls," remarked this heroine of mystery and romance, as Annie and I made our appearance, according to appointment, "it is too hot to go out. Let's have some lemonade."

"Glorious!"

"Hip-hip-hurrah!" chorused Annie, while Helen produced a supply of lemons and a sugar bowl from the depths of the closet.

"Suppose we get caught?"

"We won't."

"What about ice?"

"If we could only get hold of Bridget!"

At this moment there is a knock at the door.

"Who's there?"

"Me, mum." It is Bridget's dulcet voice that answers.

"Now, girls," said Helen, "isn't that convincing proof of the theory that there is a possibility of magnetic communication between distant souls? Bridget knew I wanted her, and she came."

"What have you got, Bridget?"

"A nosegay, mum."

"Where did you get the flowers, Bridget?"

"Picked thim in the tin-acre lot, by the ould three."

"Oh, wicked, deceitful, mendacious, intriguing Bridget! Moss roses in the middle of a ten-acre lot!"

"I think there's more ov thim there," suggests this innocent Irish maiden, who attends to the chores at Remington female seminary.

The heiress starts, and repeats, dreamily: "And the lily whispers, 'I wait.' Girls, we won't have any lemonade. The corners of Annie's mouth drop, so do mine. "We'll go to the ten-acre lot."

"It's out of bounds."

"Never mind. We can get off without being seen."

The heiress's command is law. We are so flattered by her desire for our society that we are equal to anything in the way of breaking rules. Miss Scrimper is taking her midday nap. Innocent, unsuspicious Miss Scrimper, while the wickedest of plots is being laid against her peace, and her reputation as a worthy and responsible guardian of tender youth on the point of destruction, she is placidly sleeping. Under the old oak tree, where moss roses either do or don't grow, according as you place your trust in Bridget or the botanies, are two young men. Annie and I are amazed, but Helen is as calm and self-possessed as it becomes a young lady to be who is a parlor boarder and has been in society.

"Is it the lover, do you suppose?" whispers Annie. But when we are introduced to Mr. George Dacre, Helen's distant cousin, and his friend, a young gentleman in a white cravat, then we know that we are in the presence of the hero of the romance, and our ecstasy is beyond description.

"Won't you sit down, young ladies?" suggests the latter gentleman, stretching himself at full length on the grass, and offering me a bunch of field daisies.

Soon Annie and I are engaged in an animated discussion about flowers with the owner of the white cravat, while Helen and the distant cousin keep up a murmured conversation, whose purport does not reach our ears. What would Miss Scrimper say? The flavor of wickedness about the whole adventure is so delightful, and the discussion about the relative attractions of daisies and primroses so engrossing, that when two of our party get up from their mossy seats and wander away we do not even them.

It is Annie who finely suggests, with a sigh, that we ought to go back; and then we look for Helen. She is nowhere to be seen, but our companion suggests that she has probably returned already; and such is the confidence which a white cravat inspires in the female breast that we believe him, and prepare to take our way back to the seminary alone.

"I wish she had waited for us," says Annie, as soon as we find ourselves safe in our own room. "I tell you, Bess, I don't quite like it."

But we like it still less when, about nine o'clock that evening, we are sent for to go down to Miss Scrimper's room.

"It's something about Helen, sure as a gun," whispers Annie.

"I am afraid so," I answer, feebly.

Before we get down stairs we find out that Helen is missing. Our timid knock at Miss Scrimper's door is answered by an old gentleman in such a state of excitement that he looks as if he was going to fly to pieces.

"Well, young women, what do you know about this affair?" he demands, as we advanced timidly into the room.

Annie and I looked around. Miss Scrimper is fanning herself violently, and seems to be on the verge of hysterics. The only other individual present is the porter at the station, who deposed that two young gentlemen and a lady left town that afternoon on the train for New York.

"Young ladies," screams Miss Scrimper, "I hear that you and Miss Ransom were seen in the ten-acre lot this afternoon with two young gentlemen. Tell me instantly who they were."

Poor Miss Scrimper! her false front has become displaced, her spectacles have fallen from their proper position to the tip end of her nose, and her virgin form is quivering with anguish.

Then, with fear and trembling, Annie and I tell our tale.

"Perhaps it is not too late to catch them," suggests Miss Scrimper. "Who was the young man in the white cravat?"

"Who, ma'am?" roars the old gentleman—"who but my scoundrel of a nephew?"

"Was he in orders?" gasps the poor lady?"

"Of course he was. He was ordained last week. Pretty use he makes of his profession! I have no doubt they were married before they left the station."

Then the vials of his wrath overflow. He turns on Miss Scrimper.

"Didn't I tell you to watch her every minute, not to let her go out alone? You good for nothing old woman! You wretched old hag! Confound you!"

Miss Scrimper faints, but not until she has given orders to have us confined to our rooms on bread and water for a week.

"Bess," said Annie to me that night in bed, "I could have borne it better if we had got the lemonade."

A man said his son had a well-stored mind, but the neighbors never could find where he stored it.

Letters of Credit.

One of the greatest difficulties anticipated in the failure of Duncan, Sherman & Co. was on account of the trouble to Americans traveling in Europe with letters of credit of the house. An exchange says:

In regard to the letters of credit that have been issued by Duncan, Sherman & Co. to persons traveling abroad, a leading banker of the city stated that it was customary, in purchasing letters of credit, either to deposit securities with the bank against which the traveler could draw, or to arrange with some friend here to meet any drafts of this kind as they came due; hence the securities thus left with the bank were not deposits in the usual sense, and did not in any way constitute a part of the assets of the firm. The only trouble, therefore, that can be experienced by persons traveling with these letters of credit, will be the delay incurred in transferring the securities to another bank and obtaining a new letter from the latter. The gentleman stated, however, that it was also customary to issue what are known as circular notes, which are usually made in denominations of £5 each, and which are practically drafts or notes of the bank issuing them for that amount. The purchase money of these notes becomes a part of the assets of the firm, and the holders will consequently share with the rest of the creditors in case of a failure of the firm. Mr. McIntosh, who has been at the head of the correspondence department of the firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co., stated that the firm had issued a very large number of these circular notes. He was not willing to say, however, whether or not the views expressed by the banker above referred to agreed with those of his firm. It was a question, he said, that still remained somewhat undecided as to what course would be adopted in settling with the holders of these letters.

The Grain Business.

The prospects of a busy grain season are good, as the foreign grain producing countries appear to have suffered from the weather and will only turn out a small crop. For years and years the grain of the United States has gone a long way toward feeding the inhabitants of the British Islands, but Russia has always been a competitor in the market, as immense quantities of wheat have been shipped every year to Liverpool and other ports. Last year Russia exported by rail and sea from 50,000 to 75,000 bushels. The greater portion of that grain goes to Mediterranean ports, so that, if there was any scarcity of grain in Russia, for instance, should their yield drop to 40,000,000, the demand would eventually fall upon the United States, as the Algerian supply will be nearly entirely consumed by France. Advices from Russia state that there was a drought for five weeks in the region around Taganrog, and consequently the winter wheat and most of the spring wheat has been entirely lost in that region. In Tamboy the cereal crops are not well spoken of; but at Usomje, Birrouth, Ostrogojsh, Bogontchar, Simbrisk and Samara the appearance of the growing crops are satisfactory. Hungary will have a comparatively small crop; but report speaks very highly of the quality. The wheat crop in France has not been much damaged by the inundations, as that affected their wine country, and the yield will probably be a little under the average. The prospects in Germany are fair, but the recent rains may have affected them. To the present aspect of affairs, it is the opinion of many of our largest grain merchants that the demand on our breadstuffs will be quite equal if not greater than the fall of 1873. The great market for breadstuffs is found in Great Britain, and up to June 30th this year, of the 18,986,424 cwt. (112 lbs.) imported, the United States supplied 11,099,066.

The Census.

The Troy *Times* gives its readers some of the figures of the State census, and compares them as follows:

	1875.	1870.	1865.
Albany	84,153	69,422	62,613
New York	1,200, 00	942,292	723,386
Brooklyn	470,000	396,099	296,112
Buffalo	136,156	117,714	94,802
Rochester	81,160	65,522	50,940
Syracuse	50,387	43,051	31,784
Troy	48,253	46,465	39,293
Cohoes	25,000	15,357	......
Oswego	22,280	20,910	19,288
Poughkeepsie	20,097	20,083	16,073
Elmira	20,093	15,863	13,130
Auburn	19,616	17,225	12,567
Newburgh	17,433	17,014	17,389
Ogdensburg	10,385	10,086	.....
Ithaca	10,166	10,107	7,264

As far as reported, the rural counties appear to be more than holding their own, and while some of them show losses, others report very gratifying gains. In Otsego county the population is 50,205, against 48,967 in 1870—a gain of 1,238, all of which has been effected in the towns of Oneonta and Richfield, the other towns showing a falling off. Schoharie is returned at 32,898, a falling off of 442 as compared with 1870, and 1,571 as compared with 1865. Chenango county shows a loss from 1870 of 769. The population now is returned at 39,795. The decrease is accounted for from the fact that, during the census of 1870, a large number of foreign laborers were employed in building railroads, who have since removed. Chemung county shows a marked degree of prosperity, every town showing an increase except one. The population of the county is 42,007, a gain over 1870 of 6,726. Two-thirds of this increase is to be credited to the city of Elmira. Chautauqua county shows the handsome gain over 1870 of 5,000. The returns are not quite complete.

A Child's Lesson.

A Louisville parent, who is much given to the thoughtless habit of swearing whenever his temper is ruffled by even the smallest circumstance, was trying to pull on a pair of wet boots the other day. He was much vexed, as usual, but the presence of his little four-year-old boy caused him to restrain the tide of oaths that were pressing hard for an outlet. Charlie evidently comprehended the situation, and remarked to his papa that there was only one way to get them on. Pausing a bit for breath, and expressing his impatience for a moment, he said, testily: "What do you know about it?" "Do you really want to know, papa?" "Yes; out with it!" "Well," said the precocious Charlie, "just cuss 'em on, papa." The father doesn't "cuss" any more now—at least when he's at home.

The Mouth of the Mississippi.

Captain Eads was recently in Washington on business connected with the jetties which he is constructing at the mouth of the Mississippi river. He says he has now four hundred men employed, and has projected the work toward the deep water to the extent of over three thousand feet. The water is about eight feet deep over most of the distance so far reached. The improvement is progressing at the rate of nearly two hundred feet a day, and the force will soon be increased. Captain Eads calls what is now being built "provisional work," which is to be strengthened and materially changed as the work progresses. It is now serving as a barrier from the mud and water. He expects in one year to reach water deep enough for the largest vessels.

Ditto.

A bashful and not over-educated fellow went to see his girl the other night, and as he started away he put his arm around her and whispered in her ear, "Dearest, I love;" and she responded sweetly, "Ditto," meaning, of course, a reciprocation of his tender passion. The young man could not find "ditto" in his vocabulary, and asked his father the next day, as they were hoeing cabbage, what it meant. The old gent rested a moment on his hoe, and pointed to the cabbage in front of him with the remark: "You see that cabbage?" "Yes," responded the youth. "And you see the next one there?" "Yes." "Well, that is called 'ditto.'" "Darn her!" exclaimed the impetuous youth, "she called me a cabbage head."

The occupants of six hundred shanties along the lines of New York railroads make a living by planting corn and potatoes between the rails and the fences. It is said that nine hundred acres are cultivated in this way.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad

Lee, who is under arrest for complicity in the Mountain Meadow massacre, secured a number of implements with which to effect an escape from his cell, but they were discovered. ......W. O. Avery, late chief clerk of the treasury, has been arrested on an indictment charging neglect of duty and conspiracy...... The Commercial Warehouse Company of New York has suspended with liabilities amounting to $1,500,000. J. B. Ford & Co., publishers of Beecher's "Life of Christ," have also failed.... The Tobacco Exchange banking company of Louisville, Ky., has closed its doors......John Mason & Co., of Philadelphia, have suspended for $200,000..... The Minnesota Republican Convention nominated John S. Pillsbury for governor. The platform recognizes the indissolubility of the Union and the equal rights of all men; favors the return to specie payments; demands a tariff strictly for revenue, so adjusted as to be the least burdensome and most favorable to home industries; that all corporations shall be subject to the law-making power; indorses the liberal policy of the Republican party in its efforts at internal movements; approves the present administration; indorses the policy of arbitration between this and other countries; considers it a duty to maintain the common schools......J. Elbert Dwyer, chief of the detective force at Cincinnati, has been arrested for stealing evidence against arrested counterfeiters and endeavoring to sell it to the prisoners' friends ...... The trotting horse, Judge Fullerton, made a mile in 2.18 at Cleveland, O., being the fastest time recorded this year......The secretary of the treasury has issued a call for the redemption of $14,897,200 of five-twenty bonds of Feb. 25, 1862...... Reports from Southern Ohio and Indiana state that the continuous rains have greatly injured the wheat and other crops......The Toronto *Globe* publishes special crop reports from the British provinces, from which it appears that fall wheat is below the average, although the crop is large; spring wheat is above the average; oats, barley, peas and root crops are large; hay is up to the average......Twelve thousand employees were thrown out of employment in Dundee, Scotland, by the closing of thirty-one mills......The amount of the Virginius indemnity has been received by the government, and claimants should address the department of State therefor.

The supreme court of Louisiana has decided that the acts under which the bonds known as the $4,000,000 and $3,000,000 levee issues, are constitutional. Most of the bonds are held in Europe. The funding board have been mandamused to find them......Preakness and Springbok came in together as winners of the Saratoga cup, making the two miles and a quarter in 3.56¼.....A riot among twenty-two hundred strikers on the St. Gothard tunnel was put down by the Swiss troops, who killed two men and wounded several others......The counsel of the Mountain Meadow prisoners, in his address to the jury, stated that the immigrants were murdered by the Indians, and that such white men as were present at the time did so under compulsion from savages; that Lee held no military or church office, but was simply farmer for the Indians......The Prince Bishop of Breslau, in his dual capacity as a German and Austrian bishop, is mediating between the Vatican and Prussion, through the Papal Nuncio at Vienna......Nineteen deaths from yellow fever have occurred at Barrancas, Fla......Dr. Peckover, a dentist of Cynthiana, Ky., was shot and killed by another dentist named Donally, after some high words had passed between them. Donally gave himself up to authorities, and was on his way to jail when Peckover's brother-in-law, R. H. Ridgeley, shot at and killed him. Ridgeley is in custody.....The people of Nebraska generally corroborate Prof. Marsh's charges against the Indian commission....The steamer My Choice ran down a rowboat on Lake Michigan and four men were drowned.

Thomas Donohue was drowned in a vault on his premises at St. Louis. Charles Prunty, James Henry, and Joseph Schlichtig, who successively decended into the vault to recover the body of Donohue, were overcome by foul air and died before they could be rescued......Henri Rochefort has challenged Paul Cassagnac, the belligerent Paris editor, to fight a duel......The telegraph reports a cave in at the Eureka consolidated mine at Ruby Hill, Nebraska. Five miners were killed. Two have been recovered, and search is being made for the others.....Ex-President Johnson has been stricken with paralysis. He died the succeeding morning.....Upon the application of the superintendent of the Bank department, the attorney-general sha rendered an opinion which is adverse to the legality of investment in the District of Columbia 3.65 bonds by the savings banks of the State......John Smith, a negro murderer, was hanged at Charleston, S. C. He confessed his crime......Reports from eighty of the ninety-two counties of Indiana show that the crops are heavily damaged by the late rains, and will not yield fifty per cent. The wheat has sprouted in the shocks. The accounts from Illinois and Ohio are about the same. Heavy rains also prevail in Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Kentucky, and much anxiety is felt for the crops......A tornado passed through Harveysburg, Ind., tearing houses to pieces and causing destruction. Five women were killed.... .Inquiry having been made at the Post-office department whether newspapers printed in one place and issued or published from another place can be sent from the printing office at the rate of two cents per pound, the same as from publication offices, the department decides that the office of issue is the office of publication, and not where the paper may be printed; and that all such publications must be sent to the place of issue before they can pass through the mails at publishing rates....The Democratic convention in Oregon nominated Lafayette Lane for governor. The platform calls for the payment of the public debt, resumption of specie payments, legislative control of railroad fares and freights, and demands reform in all departments; opposes the protective tariff, paper currency, national banks, Chinese immigration, fraud and corruption in office.

A Sunday meeting at Hyde Park, London, in favor of amnesty for Fenian prisoners, was attended by 100,000 persons. The member of Parliament from county of Mayo presided, and in his speech declared that the Fenian prisoners were entitled to approbation rather than censure.....The city of Briansk, Russia, comprising a population of 13,000, was two-thirds destroyed by fire......The fisheries at Labrador are reported to be almost a complete failure. Vessels of 1,000 quintals capacity have not got over 200, and are giving up the voyage ......The *Levant Herald* of Constantinople states that the government has authorized the circulation of the Bible in Turkey .....Alfred Van Sickle, a young farmer of Afton, Iowa, shot and killed his wife, and then put a bullet into his own brain, without any apparent cause ....The assistant treasurer at New York has been directed to sell $5,000 000 in gold during August.....Gen. Sherman has directed the officer in charge of Barrancas barracks to take his command to any healthy point the commanding general of the Department of the Gulf may approve...... .The army-worm is committing great ravages at various places in Suffolk county, Long Island, especially on the south side, where nearly every farmer reports that his oats are injured, some fields being completely stripped......Ex-President Andrew Johnson died at his daughter's residence in Carter county, East Tennessee, of paralysis. President Grant issued an order for the draping of public buildings in Washington, the suspension of business the day of the funeral, and proper honors by the army and navy.

Gov. Tilden has given instructions to the attorney-general of New York to sue Denison, Belden & Co., to recover money unlawfully received under the contracts for repairs on the canals......The Kentucky election resulted in a victory for the Democratic candidate by about the same majority as last year......The army and navy were ordered to fire salutes and minute guns and place their flags at half-mast in memory of ex-President Johnson the day of the funeral......Col. Baker, the friend of the Prince of Wales, who assaulted a young lady in a railroad carriage, has been found guilty of an indecent assault, and sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months and pay a fine of £500......The cotton crop is generally better than last year, according to the reports to the New Orleans exchange......The money order system between the Unitee States and Canada has gone into operation.....The board of inquiry in the case of Bishop Whittingham, of Maryland, have refused to put the bishop on trial......Notice of a retrial of the case of

Tilton vs. Beecher has been served on Mr. Beecher's lawyers by the attorneys for Mr. Tilton……Gen Butler's yacht America won the second race with Rufus Hatch's yacht Resolute….Heavy rains throughout Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have caused great damage. The rivers have all overflowed and swept away crops, bridges and portions of railways.

The gold yield of Australia is unusually small this year, although the average earnings of the mines have been very good……The crops of England will harvest better than expected, having been saved by the recent fine weather. The crops of Austria and Hungary show a likelihood of deficiency……Gen. Crook has ordered the miners out of the Black Hills, and given them fifteen days in which to depart. Gold continues to be found in paying quantities …… Ex-President Andrew Johnson, wrapped in an American flag, was buried at Greenville, Tenn., with Masonic honors. The town was filled with mourners from all parts of the State. Many of the federal offices throughout the country closed out of respect to his memory……The people of Texas voted to call a constitutional convention…..The Indian chief Beverite contradicts the stories told by Lee concerning the Utah massacre. He says that the story about the immigrants poisoning an ox or spring is false….The centennial commission will not accept applications for space in the exhibition from citizens of nations whose government have not appointed a commission …… Government officials captured three counterfeiters of five-cent nickels in Brooklyn, N. Y., together with $10,000 worth of presses, dies, etc……In the claims of Americans against the Mexican government, Sir Edward Thornton, the referee, has awarded Mrs. Harry L. Evans $20,000 gold as indemnity for the execution of her husband by the Mexican government; Joseph W. Hale was awarded $20,000 gold with six per cent. interest from 1860, for the destruction of claimant's cedar wood sawmills; Margaret Glenn was awarded $20,000 for the murder and robbery of her husband and son by Mexican civil authorities; Daniel Green was awarded $10,000 gold with interest from 1865, for the destruction of his farm and crops by Mexican cavalry.

Where to Seek Pleasure

is a by no means easy problem. In the multitude of attractive inducements held out by competing resorts it is, in fact, one of the most difficult. All things considered, the summer tourist can scarcely go far wrong if he makes a selection of one or other of the many beautiful routes which the Eastern railroad offers to him. The most fastidious taste cannot fail of gratification, if, for instance, taking the seashore route to the White Hills, the vacation pleasure seeker betakes himself to some of those lofty peaks where the invigorating breezes quickly banish the recollections of the sweltering city. Wolfboro', with its host of attractive features, can only be reached by rail alone on the Eastern road. Lake Winnipesaukee and its varied beauties are brought into connection with this enterprising road by two splendid steamers. If North Conway, ever lovely and enticing, is the objective point of the tourist, he has a number of alternative routes offered him by this enterprising road. He may reach it via the Conway division of the Eastern or Portland, and Portland and Ogdensburg railroad. Its tracks run through the far-famed White Mountain Notch, and are the only available means of reaching Cape Ann, Hampton and Rye beaches, and the enchanting Isles of Shoals. The seashore route connects also with stages for Wells, Kennebuck, Biddeford, Pool, Old Orchard, and Scarboro beaches. If the tourist is inclined to the energetic pleasure of hunting, he can reach Moosehead lake by the only direct line of the Eastern railroad. To all the summer resorts of Maine and the provinces, this road furnishes, in fact, the easiest, most economical, and in every way the best means of access. Its circulars, maps and guide books, which the management issues gratuitously, are models of convenient reference books. Maj. Geo. F. Field, the popular passenger agent, is always to be found at his office, 280 Washington street, ready to give the intending tourist every assistance which his long connection with the road, and minute knowledge of its various ramifications enables him to afford. If you want to seek pleasure and seek it with a certainty of finding it, do not pack your traveling bags before you have studied the attractions which the Eastern pleasure routes have to offer. They can no be excelled.—*Boston Times.*

The West Point Chain.

The famous chain stretched across the Hudson at West Point in 1778 was made from the iron ores of the Sterling iron mines. It extended from the rocky bluff just below the steamboat dock to Constitution island, and was buoyed up by large logs about sixteen feet long, placed at short distances from each other, the chain carried over them and fastened to each by staples. The links were made of iron bars, two and a half inches square, over two feet long, and weigh about one hundred and forty pounds each. When Benedict Arnold was preparing to surrender West Point into the hands of the enemy, this chain became a special object of his attention; only a few days before the discovery of his treason he wrote in a disguised hand to Andre that he had weakened the obstruction to navigation by ordering a link of the chain to be taken out and carried to the smith, under a pretense that it needed repairs. He assured his employer that the link would not be returned to its place before the forts should be in possession of the enemy. In two years after this date, a Tory resident of Ramapo valley acted as hangman at the execution of Major Andre, on the condition of being released from prison.

Settling a Suit.

A suit which is singular even for a divorce, and contains at least one complication which that highly popular form of litigation might not be expected to present, has just been decided in Alameda county, Cal. The parties to the suit were Maduela Higuera, a married Mexican woman who lives at Livermore, and Jose Reyes Bernal, a wealthy rancher, who owns considerable property in the same vicinity. While Manuela was yet a senorita Jose promised to marry her, but subsequently he repented and forsook her. She commenced an action for breach of promise, but while the suit was pending, impatient at the law's delay, she imprudently married a Senor Higuera. The defense claimed that if the plaintiff had suffered in feelings or any other respect by Bernal's behavior, her subsequent marriage with Higuera made everything even. Judge McKee seemed to view the matter in that light, for he rendered a decision in favor of the defendant.

Advice for Dull Times.

Advertising is a great bother. It only brings a lot of folks to your place of business. If they want you let them hunt you up. Then if you get your name in the paper you will be bored with drummers and people from the country will call on you and you will have to show them goods, and like enough have to do up bundles for them, which will exhaust your stock so much that you will be obliged to buy more goods, which is a great trouble. If you advertise, too, it gives your place a reputation abroad; folks will go there and crowd you, and make it too lively. If you don't want to do anything keep as still as you can.

A French consul writes that Canada, in recollection of her former state as a colony founded by France, is still animated with filial tenderness for the mother land of Rabelais and Paul de Kock. Dry old John Bull can't prevent the leaping up of motherly joy and daughterly love.

Millions of intelligent women say that Dobbins' Electric Soap (made by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia) is in every respect the best soap ever made, and will do three times the work of any other. Try it. *

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A want has been felt and expressed by physicians for a safe and reliable purgative. Such a want is now supplied in *Parsons' Purgative Pills.*—*Com.*

Henry K. Bond, of Jefferson, Maine, was cured of spitting blood, soreness and weakness of the stomach, by the use of *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment* internally.—*Com.*

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The Markets.

NEW YORK.			
Beef Cattle—Prime to Extra Bullocks	.09½	@	.13½
Common to Good Texans	.08	@	.11½
Milch Cows	45,00	@	75,00
Hogs—Live	.07½	@	.07½
Dressed	.10	@	.10½
Sheep	.04½	@	.06
Lambs	.06½	@	.08½
Cotton—Middling	.14½	@	.14½
Flour—Extra Western	5.90	@	6.35
State Extra	5.95	@	6.35
Wheat—Red Western	1.48	@	1.50
No. 2 Spring	1.44	@	1.44
Rye—State	1.05	@	1.05
Barley—State	1.20	@	1.20
Barley Malt	1.35	@	1.50
Oats—Mixed Western	.64	@	.65
Corn—Mixed Western	.83	@	.85
Hay, per cwt	.50	@	1.15
Straw, per cwt	.60	@	.80
Hops……'74s, 25@30—olds	.08	@	.12
Pork—Mess	21.50	@	21.60
Lard	.13	@	.13
Fish—Mackerel No. 1, new	18.00	@	19.00
" No. 2, new	12.00	@	13.00
Dry Cod, per cwt	5.25	@	5.50
Herring, Scaled, per box	.35	@	.35
Petroleum—Crude……05½@05½	Refined, 11½		
Wool—California Fleece	.30	@	.35
Texas "	.20	@	.33½
Australian "	.47	@	.56
Butter—State	.32	@	.35
Western Dairy	.24	@	.26
Western Yellow	.22	@	.25
Western Ordinary	.10	@	.14
Pennsylvania Fine	.26	@	.28½
Cheese—State Factory	.09	@	.12
" Skimmed	.02	@	.05
Western	.08	@	.11
Eggs—State	.20	@	.21
ALBANY			
Wheat	1.40	@	1.40
Rye—State	.99	@	1.00
Corn—Mixed	.88	@	.88
Barley—State	1.20	@	1.20
Oats—State	.62½	@	.66
BUFFALO.			
Flour	6.25	@	8.00
Wheat—No. 2 Spring	1.35	@	1.40
Corn—Mixed	.77	@	.78
Oats	.62	@	.62
Rye	1.20	@	1.20
Barley	1.40	@	1.40
BALTIMORE.			
Cotton—Low Middlings	.14½	@	.14½
Flour—Extra	8.75	@	8.75
Wheat—Red Western	1.50	@	1.50
Rye	1.00	@	1.00
Corn—Yellow	.87	@	.88
Oats—Mixed	.61	@	.62
Petroleum	.05½	@	.05½
PHILADELPHIA.			
Flour—Pennsylvania Extra	6.25	@	6.75
Wheat—Western Red	1.48	@	1.48
Rye	1.00	@	1.00
Corn—Yellow	.86	@	.87
Mixed	.86	@	86½
Oats—Mixed	.62	@	.63
Petroleum—Crude……08½@08½	Refined, .11		

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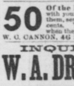

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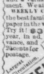

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